

Minutes
Human Services Commission
Thursday, March 25, 2004
5:00 P.M.
Civic Center Senior Center
7375 E. 2nd Street
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

Present: Chairperson Fausel, Vice-Chair Bachmann, Commissioners Bilsens, Bitenc, Coudroglou, Reid and Resnick

Staff Present: Connie James, Donna Brower, Cindy Ensign, Vicki French, Phil Hershkowitz, Valerie Kime Trujillo, Kasey Moyers and Mary Kay Rieke

CALL TO ORDER

Chairwoman Fausel called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE March 11, 2004 REGULAR MEETING

Commissioner Resnick moved for approval of the March 11, 2004 meeting minutes; Commissioner Bilsens and the motion carried unanimously.

SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PRESENTATION

Dr. Sylvia Cohen, Lead Psychologist at the Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) introduced Marla Ambramowitz, Prevention Coordinator, also at the Scottsdale Unified School District who presented prevention programs in the schools, the request for proposal process and the results of the Youth Survey.

Commissioner Bilsens asked how many students attend Sierra Vista. Dr. Cohen said that it varies, usually around 80. Commissioner Bilsens asked how long students stay at the school. Dr. Cohen said that they could be there from a month to a year, depending on why they are there.

Commissioner Bitenc asked where the school is and Ms. Ambramowitz said that Sierra Vista is located across the street from Coronado High School on Oak and Miller. Commissioner Bitenc asked if most of the students have behavioral problems. Ms. Ambramowitz said yes, behavioral problems, but also violations, as well as kids that want to go there for an alternative education. Commissioner Bitenc asked what determines an alternative education. Dr. Cohen said the way that Sierra Vista's classes are taught, different from Coronado's classroom. She added that students wear uniforms and have smaller classes, this way it is easier to adjust/accommodate students who miss items – they can individualize instruction. She said that Sierra Vista also has special programs, such as Power Paws, that they don't have at a large high school.

Commissioner Bilsens asked if students are bussed to the school. Ms. Ambramowitz said yes and by their own transportation.

Commissioner Bilsens asked what started the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Scottsdale School District. Ms. French said that she would address the history of the IGA in her presentation.

Chairwoman Fausel asked why the school district is doing an RFP process to give to certain agencies to offer services at the school, when there are Human Services agencies that want and can provide service at the schools with their own grants; and why the school district is looking to support programs with an IGA when agencies can come into the school at no charge?

Commissioner Bitenc said that it depends on the scope of work; an agency wouldn't necessarily be prepackaged to fit the needs of the school. Ms. Ambramowitz added that they are also looking for diversity that they can't have fully provided with the staff, so they depend on the IGA to provide those services. We have to utilize agencies as vendors rather than partners because of our **TOO LOW TO HEAR**

Chairwoman Fausel asked if the school district uses an in kind vendor. Ms. Ambramowitz said, no, if we receive the grant to do peer support and we look over the grant and it's ok, then we can form those partnerships, but honestly we don't have people knocking down our doors.

Commissioner Bitenc asked who is currently providing prevention services. Ms. Ambramowitz said Scottsdale Prevention Institute (SPI).

Chairwoman Fausel suggested that perhaps more agencies would come and offer their services if they didn't think the school district was only dealing with one vendor.

Commissioner Bitenc asked how long SPI has been providing services and Ms. French said since 1986. Commissioner Bitenc asked if the renewal for SPI came up last year and Ms. French said no, every five years. Ms. Ambramowitz added that this year they have a large selection committee, we are looking to diversify, we are not limiting ourselves to one agency.

Commissioner Bitenc asked if agencies may propose just a piece of the needed services and Ms. Ambramowitz said yes. Dr. Cohen added that if you rely on other agencies to provide what they have available instead of identifying your needs – you may not have any of your needs met.

Chairwoman Fausel said that perhaps many agencies would be willing to work with the school district and tailor their work to your needs, but they don't feel they can work there, and therefore there are opportunities that are missed. Dr. Cohen said that if the commission knows of people that can provide services we need, please let us know. Ms. Ambramowitz said in her experience they have been approached by agencies that have great programs, but they are not what we need. She added that they are not making any decisions until they see all the proposals – and we are working on blind proposals – it's our goal.

Chairwoman Fausel asked how the RFP process will work. Ms. Ambramowitz said that the purchasing department will handle the applications and may be blinding them as well. Chairwoman Fausel said that when the process goes to purchasing, they may send the proposals to those already on the vendor list, so if one wants to send in a proposal they should probably be on the vendor list. Dr. Cohen said yes, but the school also looks for vendors, for example she gets a list from the Arizona Psychological Association for updates and choices of psychologists for the schools.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked about the Youth Survey and if it is part of the driving force in how the school district determines what they are looking for with agencies. Ms. Ambramowitz said

that it is not a factor this year, but it will be in the future. Vice-chair Bachmann asked if the survey is yearly and Ms. Ambramowitz said yes, it will be. Vice-chair Bachmann asked what kind of questions are on the survey and Ms. Ambramowitz said, "Have you had a drink in the past week?" She added that the survey is such that it can catch lies and it is a very good survey.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked if the results of the survey would be available to the public or the Human Services Commission. Ms. Ambramowitz said that the state survey would be he available. Vice-chair Bachmann asked if there is any type of survey of the parents. Ms. Ambramowitz said that they don't do that now, but maybe in the next year we could look at that type of survey.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked if the school programs pay any attention to depression. Ms. Ambramowitz said that there is programming they are trying to get involved in and they do have programs for the Junior and Senior High students for depression, reduction of suicide and general mental health issues. She added that Supai and Arcadia are already using these programs. Vice-chair Bachmann asked if the school was familiar with Teen Lifeline and Ms. Ambramowitz said that they give that information out at the schools.

Chairwoman Fausel asked if teachers will receive in service trainings and how they would learn about the new services. Ms. Ambramowitz said that she has a prevention contact at every school that she works with and that she distributes information regularly for distribution to staff. She added that she also uses email and visits principals and student services directors. She added that once the final decisions are made next school year from the RFP process, she will again go out to each school with the new information.

Commissioner Reid asked when Ms. Ambramowitz goes around to different schools, if staff is open to the programs and do they want them in their school. Ms. Ambramowitz said yes, although some staff are resistant because of time constraints, but overall they know that the programs will help prevent larger issues in the future. Commissioner Reid asked if they will be monitoring the programming and Ms. Ambramowitz said yes.

Commissioner Reid asked how much focus would be on training for teachers. Ms. Ambramowitz said that, depending on the program, each school will have identified needs for teacher training and that schools are already aware and are determining needs individually. She added that if the teacher is doing the program, there will be training for them and they will follow the curriculum.

Commissioner Bilsens asked how the impact of the programs are measured. Ms. Ambramowitz said that SPI has measurable outcomes, such as questionnaires that are used before and after a program. Commissioner Bilsens asked if the schools have seen any changes or improvements. Ms. Ambramowitz said yes, for some programs, although others are hard to measure because of the change over in staff. Commissioner Bilsens suggested that looking at what is most effective and leveraging that would be helpful. Ms. Ambramowitz said that 10th graders that were given the Youth Survey are now answering the survey as 12th graders, so for the first time they will be able to see trends. Ms. Ambramowitz added that one of the NCLB requirements is parent involvement and all the curriculums we are looking at have parent involvement.

Vice-chair Bachmann asked if there would be any demographics in the Youth Survey. Ms. Ambramowitz said yes, age and by school.

Chairwoman Fausel asked if the schools have done any work with Community Bridges and Ms. Ambramowitz said no.

PRESENTATION OF YOUTH PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY

Vicki French, Human Services Manager – Youth and Family Services, presented on Youth Prevention Programs in the community.

Commissioner Resnick asked if the City of Scottsdale's after school programs are provided at no cost and Ms. French said yes.

UPDATE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Vicki French, Human Services Manager – Youth and Family Services, updated the commission on the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Scottsdale School District. Connie James, Human Services Director, indicated that the IGA will come before the commission for approval.

PRESENTATION ON NEW PROGRAM: "PARTY PATROL"

Vicki French, Human Services Manager – Youth and Family Services, provided information on a new program developed by the Scottsdale Police Department called "Party Patrol." This new program is being implemented in order to educate the community about the seriousness of under age drinking, and will provide a new means of enforcing alcohol laws. Youth Services is assisting with training and will also provide services to youth cited for alcohol charges.

Commissioner Bilsens asked if there is any type of penalty for the parents. Ms. French said yes, parents are held responsible for providing alcohol to minors. Commissioner Bilsens said that those penalties will do much to speak to parents about underage drinking.

DISCUSSION OF THE 2004 HUMAN SERVICES 5-YEAR PLAN UPDATE

Cindy Ensign, Human Services Planner/Budget Specialist, discussed the draft copies given to the commission at the March 11, 2004 meeting of the 2004 Human Services 5-Year Plan Update. Any changes, suggestions or corrections for the commission were duly noted and the commission will review and vote on the final version at the May 13, 2004 meeting.

Vice-chair Bachmann gave the following suggestions:

- 1) Under the heading of 'Address Scottsdale's Human Service Needs,' there is an entry to Expand Youth and Family counseling services..., which reads "relocate the existing Youth and Family office to a location between Shea and Thunderbird." While I appreciate that the numbers of youth are increasing in north Scottsdale I don't believe there has been (or will be) an appreciable decrease of youth in south Scottsdale. I'd like to propose that the suggestion to relocate the Youth and Family office be omitted, leaving the possibility of establishing an additional site intact.

Connie James, Human Services Director, clarified indicating that there are plans for an additional Youth and Family services site up north, while still keeping the site at Indian School and Hayden. She added that as the city develops more parks up north, there will always be an area allocated for human services and that they will clarify that in the updated 5-year plan.

- 2) Under the heading of 'Address Scottsdale's Human Service Needs' the last entry reads, "Continue to monitor legislative issues that effect human service needs in Scottsdale." I wonder if we might make an addition so that it reads: Continue to monitor (and lobby for) or (and promote) issues that effect human service needs in Scottsdale. I realize it's a subtle change but monitoring something implies passivity and promoting or lobbying suggests a more active role.

Ms. James clarified that city employees cannot "lobby" and that the city has only one paid lobbyist. Commissioner Bitenc suggested that the wording could say, "Promote issues that positively..." and Ms. James said that the commission could lobby and the other wording would be sufficient for staff.

- 3) While the concerns of youth are addressed in general, I would like to suggest that we include an entry that stresses the importance of early education programs. It might be worded something like: "Continue emphasizing early education programs such as the Ready to Learn and Youth Initiatives."

Commissioner Bilsens recommended that in the five points that address Scottsdale Human Services Needs that the two domestic violence points become one and that one point address seniors and yet another address persons with disabilities.

Chairwoman Fausel suggested changing the "Youth and Families" heading to "Early Childhood, Youth and Families"

Commissioner Bilsens asked what was victims' compensation service. Ms. James said that by state law, when a person goes through the domestic violence process, as crime victims they are entitled to a compensation service where, if they have no insurance, they can receive reimbursement.

Commissioner Reid recommended that the ethnic terminology be consistent throughout the plan. Ms. James indicated that on the chart provided in the plan, the terminology is indicative of the US Census and cannot be altered, however staff can change the ethnic terminology in the parts of the plan that they write. In addition, staff will change the glossary to reflect and clarify those terminologies.

Ms. James asked, so that staff can incorporate any changes/suggestions/recommendations made by commission in time, please send them to Cindy by April 20. She added any questions can be directed to Cindy at 312-2646.

STAFF AND COMMISSION UPDATES

Ms. James discussed the annual Partners for Paiute fundraising breakfast, to be held on April 23 from 7:30 AM to 10:00 AM. She indicated that all the commissioners have been invited and she looks forward to seeing them there.

Ms. James reminded the commission of the next meeting on April 8, at the Kiva – City Hall where there would be a volunteer recognition.

Ms. James then reminded commission that the April 22 meeting has been cancelled and replaced by a special meeting on April 15 at Mesa United Way, where commissioners will meet with Mesa and Tempe Human Services Commissioners and tour two facilities in the area. Ms. James then reviewed the currently itinerary of the tour.

Ms. James reminded commission of the City Council meeting on April 20, where the funding recommendations will be up for approval. Chairwoman Fausel will attend that meeting with staff.

Ms. James reminded commission that at the May 13 meeting, held at the City Hall Kiva staff will ask commission to approve the updated 5-year plan and at the May 27 meeting held at the Via Linda Senior Center, staff and commission will review the funding process, applications and anything else that commission wishes to discuss. All meetings will begin at 5:00 PM.

Commissioner Resnick asked if the Volunteer meeting on April 8 begins at 5 PM and Ms. James said yes. Ms. Kime Trujillo added that there will be refreshments from 4 to 5 and then the regular meeting will begin at 5:00 PM.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. §38-431.02)

Chairperson Fausel called for any items from the floor. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to be brought before the commission, Chairperson Fausel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Resnick moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Bachmann seconded. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Beth Hollmann, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.

Connie James
Director, Human Services